

esprit orchestra

95
96

Alex Pauk music director and conductor



music director's message

Welcome to another Esprit season of artistry, imagination and invention.

Esprit is the proud recipient of the prestigious Jean A. Chalmers National Music Award (1995) for excellence and outstanding contribution to musical creativity.

This season, to highlight the award, we will be performing music by Vancouver composer Paul Dolden, winner of the 1995 Chalmers Award in Composition.

Our season opener is R. Murray Schafer's *Concerto for Flute and Orchestra* performed by Robert Aitken, for whom it was written. The season finale is the world premiere of Schafer's Esprit-commissioned *Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra*.

Outstanding Canadian soloists are prominent as guest artists in ten concerti and we are helping Nexus celebrate their 25th anniversary season through the first performance of a work by Bruce Mather, commissioned by Nexus for the occasion.

Esprit believes in Canadian composers and their music so our season includes the world premiere performances of eight brand new works as well as some past Esprit favourites.

Our *Toward a Living Art* education programme and festival involves budding young performers and composers in several performances. On October 22nd we will launch our third all-Canadian compact disc on the CBC Records label.

As always, Esprit Orchestra concerts aim to stimulate, enlighten, entertain, amuse and challenge our audiences. Please join us in our continuing celebration and enjoyment of musical creativity.

ALEX PAUK, MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

95~96 season summary

Sunday, October 22, 1995

composers

R. MURRAY SCHAFER

HENRY KUCHARZYK (world premiere)

SERGIO BARROSO

PAUL DOLDEN

guest artists

ROBERT AITKEN, flute

ADELE ARMIN, RAAD electric violin

TREVOR TURESKI, midi-percussion

Sunday, November 19, 1995

composers

OMAR DANIEL (world premiere)

JEFFREY RYAN (world premiere)

PATRICK CARRABRÉ

ANDREW STEWART

guest artists

GWEN HOEBIG, violin

BLAIR MACKAY, drums

Sunday, January 21, 1996

composers

SOFIA GUBAIDULINA

LARRY LAKE (world premiere)

JOHN REA

CLAUDE BAKER

guest artist

RIVKA GOLANI, viola

Friday, March 29, 1996

composers

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (world premiere)

HARRY SOMERS (world premiere)

BRUCE MATHER (world premiere)

SERGIO BARROSO (world premiere)

guest artists

STUART LAUGHTON, trumpet

JAMIE PARKER, piano

NEXUS, percussion

LAURA WILCOX, viola

canadian treasure

Setting the pace for a season of mainly Canadian music and all-Canadian performers, this concert highlights the vibrancy of new sounds from the combination of orchestra with live electronics, computers and tape. Elements of popular music are integrated with contemporary techniques in composition to produce new musical forms. The work of Paul Dolden, winner of the 1995 Chalmers Award in Composition, has been praised as "an image of music for the next millennium – humorous, sophisticated, complex and highly original." R. Murray Schafer's virtuosic flute concerto is one of the most important flute concerti of this century and will receive a breathtaking performance by the flutist for whom it was originally composed.

presented by



Sunday, October 22, 1995

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre

St. Lawrence Centre

compositions

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra, 1984

HENRY KUCHARZYK (Canada)

Prosthesis #1

concerto for midi-percussion and orchestra, 1995
world premiere Esprit commission

SERGIO BARROSO (Canada)

Jitanjáfora

concerto for violin and orchestra
with electronics, 1993

PAUL DOLDEN (Canada)

*The Heart Tears Itself Apart With the Power
of Its Own Muscles. Resonance #3.*

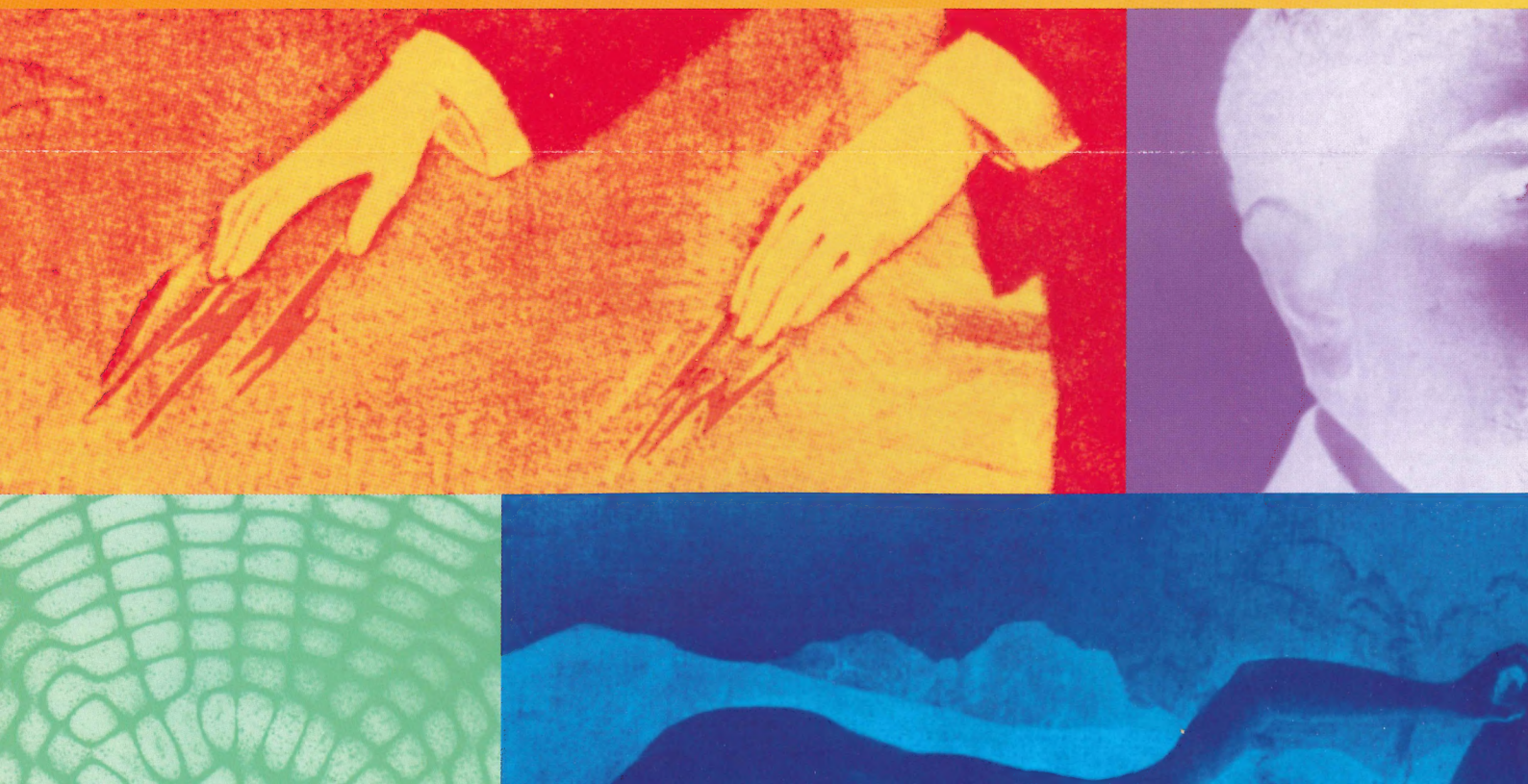
for strings and tape, 1994

guest artists

ROBERT AITKEN, flute (Canada)

ADELE ARMIN, RAAD electric violin (Canada)

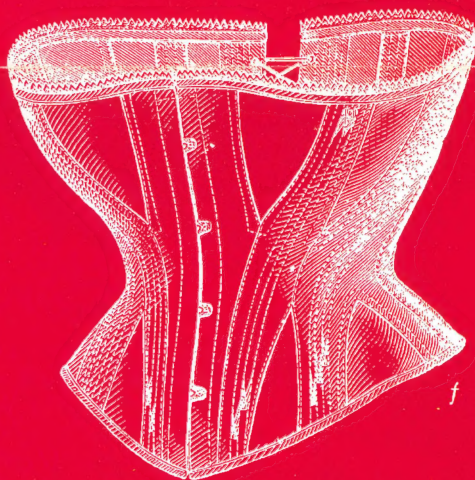
TREVOR TURESKI, midi-percussion (Canada)





firebrands

Fresh, exuberant and dynamic are words which characterize the music of the rising compositional stars presented on this programme. As part of our *Toward a Living Art* education programme, two works have been specially commissioned to involve high school students from around Southern Ontario and young professional musicians from the Royal Conservatory of Music performing side by side with Esprit's players.



Sunday, November 19, 1995

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre
St. Lawrence Centre

composers

OMAR DANIEL (Canada)
Lacrymosa, for Esprit
and student musicians, 1995
world premiere Esprit commission

JEFFREY RYAN (Canada)
Pangaea, for Esprit
and student musicians, 1995
world premiere Esprit commission

PATRICK CARRABRÉ (Canada)
The Gates of Heaven, concerto
for violin and orchestra, 1993

ANDREW STEWART (Canada)
The Lines of Your Metal Bra
for orchestra and drum set, 1994

guest artists

GWEN HOEBIG, violin (Canada)
BLAIR MACKAY, drums (Canada)





zefiro torna

A return visit by Rivka Golani brings with it Larry Lake's transformation of his earlier chamber piece for viola, percussion and electronics into a full-fledged concerto for viola and orchestra. The theme of return continues with Esprit's second performance of John Rea's *Zefiro torna*, commissioned and premiered last season, giving listeners a chance to re-experience this illusive piece about the return of Zephyr, a gentle and agreeable wind. The international pieces on this concert represent music by composers whose repertoire Esprit plans to explore further in the future.

Sunday, January 21, 1996

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre

St. Lawrence Centre

composers

SOFIA GUBAIDULINA (Russia)

Concordanza, 1971

LARRY LAKE (Canada)

Slowly I Turn, concerto for viola
and orchestra, 1995

world premiere Esprit commission

JOHN REA (Canada)

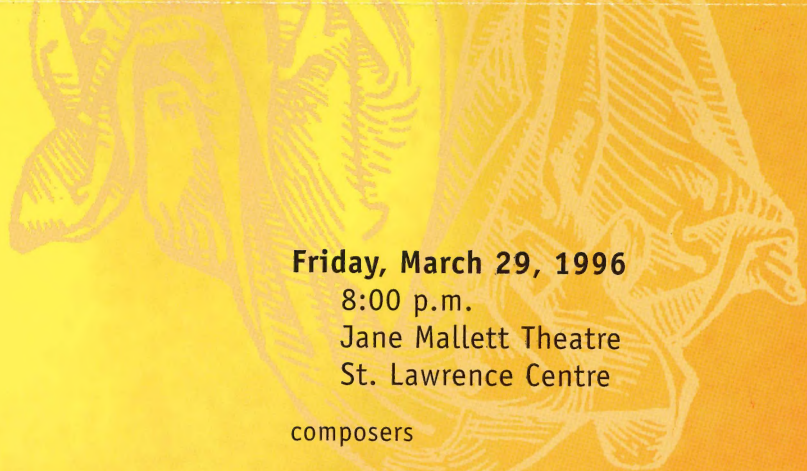
Zefiro torna, 1994

CLAUDE BAKER (USA)

Awaking the Winds, 1993

guest artist

RIVKA GOLANI, viola (Canada)



four new concerti

The creative vigour and vitality of four important Canadian composers are combined with a stellar line-up of guest artists. In this programme, Stuart Laughton, Esprit's principal trumpet player, appears as a soloist with the orchestra for the first time; a return visit by Nexus allows Esprit to help celebrate that group's 25th Anniversary Season; violist Laura Wilcox is given a musical welcome as she makes Toronto her new home and Jamie Parker's dazzling pianistic virtuosity is given full reign.

presented by



Friday, March 29, 1996

8:00 p.m.

Jane Mallett Theatre
St. Lawrence Centre

composers

R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Canada)

Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra, 1996
world premiere Esprit commission

HARRY SOMERS (Canada)

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, 1996
world premiere Esprit commission

BRUCE MATHER (Canada)

Tallbrem Variations
for five percussionists and orchestra, 1994
world premiere

SERGIO BARROSO (Canada)

*Concerto for Viola, Electronics
and Orchestra*, 1996
world premiere

guest artists

STUART LAUGHTON, trumpet (Canada)

JAMIE PARKER, piano (Canada)

NEXUS, percussion (Canada)

LAURA WILCOX, viola (Canada)

Esprit Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the following for their support in the 1995~96 season*

The Canada Council

The Province of Ontario
through the Ontario Arts Council

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**Esprit also thanks all of those supporters not known
prior to the printing of this brochure.*

single tickets

Single tickets are \$26.00; \$12.50 student / senior and go on sale at the St. Lawrence Centre box office Monday, September 25, 1995.

Call (416) 366-7723 with your credit card number or visit the box office in person at 27 Front Street East.

Toward a Living Art education programme

Esprit's school concerts, lectures and workshops are designed to lead students through the experience of new music from composition to performance.

Educators are urged to contact the Esprit office for further information and to add their school's name to our mailing list.
Call (416) 599-7880.

Esprit Orchestra profile

Esprit is Canada's only orchestra uniquely committed to commissioning and performing contemporary orchestral music by Canadian composers.

Since 1983 Esprit has provided composers with the rare opportunity to write orchestral music and hear that music played by a full-size, professional orchestra made up of musicians devoted – and specially trained – to perform new music.

By April 1995, Esprit had commissioned and premiered 38 new works by 34 Canadian composers. It had also premiered an additional 9 works commissioned by the CBC, Nexus, the Toronto Symphony, the Art Gallery of Ontario and others.

Canadian composers who have been commissioned and premiered by Esprit include Sergio Barroso;

José Evangelista; Harry Freedman; Alexina Louie; Bruce Mather; John Oswald and R. Murray Schafer.

Committed to setting Canadian music within an international framework, Esprit has performed 63 works by composers from around the world, including countries such as Italy, Japan, China, France, Russia and Sweden.

Esprit has released 2 all-Canadian compact discs on the CBC SM5000 label – *The Esprit Orchestra* (1991) and *Iridescence* (1993). It will launch a third this fall.

Leading Canadian soloists and ensembles that have appeared with Esprit include Robert Aitken; Maureen Forrester; Rivka Golani; Desmond Hoebig; The Elmer Iseler Singers; Nexus; Jon Kimura Parker; Gary Relyea and Jean Stilwell.

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St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts

collects ticket fees on behalf of Esprit Orchestra but cannot be responsible for refunds should performances be cancelled. All programmes are subject to change without notice. Should an artist be unable to appear, Esprit Orchestra reserves the right to make arrangements for substitute performers. Sorry, no refunds. Each ticket includes a \$1.00 Capital Improvement Fund surcharge.

*Esprit is a registered charitable organization (no. 0714998-22).